

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action dated January 30, 2004 and the cited references therein. In response thereto, claims 11 and 43 are amended. Claims 11-23 and 41-53 are pending in the present application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11-23, 41-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puri U.S. Patent No. 6,064,982 in view of Christeson et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,926,817. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 11 recites in a computer network having at least one server including a full set of software and a full set of configuration information relating to a set of products, connectable to at least one client, a method for creating technical configurations and electronically delivering order reports to at least one client, the method comprising: receiving on-line a desired product selected from the set of products by a user on the client; downloading to the client only limited configuration information that is a subset of the full set of configuration information and limited configuration programs that are a subset of the full configuration program, wherein the limited configuration information and limited configuration programs are determined based on the desired product; requesting on-line a desired technical configuration from the user, wherein the viability of the desired technical configuration has been preliminarily checked at the client using the limited configuration information and the limited configuration programs; receiving the desired technical configuration from the client and performing a full check at the server on the viability of the desired technical configuration using the full set of configuration information and the full set of configuration programs; and preparing and outputting an electronic order report, if the full check at the server is successful.

Puri describes a smart configurator. More particularly, Puri describes a tool for smart system configuration that assists in needs assessment, product/options selection, pricing, and distribution. The tool recommends a system configuration that most nearly meets a customer's needs, based upon the results of an interactive customer product selection session in which the customer progresses through a dialog that is implemented in a series of cascading style sheets.

The tool is customizable to meet customer-specific requirements. The tool is written in client-side JavaScript and Dynamic HTML (see at least Abstract). Accordingly, Puri fails to disclose or teach receiving the desired technical configuration from the client and performing a full check at the server on the viability of the desired technical configuration using the full set of configuration information and the full set of configuration programs. In addition, Puri does not disclose or teach preparing and outputting an electronic order report, if the full check at the server is successful.

Further, Puri describes, “Significant to the invention is the ability to perform all sales related functions off-line, for example in the field at a customer location.” Column 2, lines 63-65; and “one significant feature of the invention is the ability of the user to operate the smart configuration off-line.” Column 4, lines 23-25. These are contrary to the claimed invention as the claimed invention processes the full set of configuration information and the full set of configuration programs at the server, not at the client. Applicant respectfully submits that Puri’s system is designed to operate the smart configurator on the client side, whether it is off-line or optionally on-line to obtain the updated information (such as pricing and SKU information). The updated information is still processed on the client side. In fact, Puri discloses that its smart configuration program, i.e. the smart configurator, is custom-installed on the client (Column 5, lines 50-54), whereas in the claimed invention, upon receiving on-line a desired product, limited configuration information and programs are downloaded onto the client. The full configuration information and programs are performed at the server.

The claimed invention downloads to the client a subset of the full set of configuration information and programs. Puri does not disclose, suggest or provide any motivation of downloading a subset of the full set of configuration information and programs. Furthermore, the claimed invention processes the full set of configuration information and programs at the server after a preliminary check of the viability of the desired technical configuration has been performed at the client. Puri does not disclose or teach processing of a preliminary check at the client using the limited configuration and limited confirmation programs, and thereafter processing of a full check using the full set of configuration information and configuration programs at the server. Moreover, Puri fails to disclose or teach preparing and outputting an

electronic order report if the full check at the server is successful as now recited in claim 11. In fact, Puri teaches away from this feature by stating that a presentation page (which provides a list of products that most nearly fill the customer's needs) is presented automatically after the customer's needs have been assessed, as opposed to being presented if the full check is successful as recited in claim 11.

Christeson describes a client-server system and method for providing real time access to a variety of database systems. Christeson also fails to disclose or teach the above discussed features as recited in claim 11. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 patentably distinguishes over Puri in view of Christeson.

Claim 43 recites the features discussed above. Thus, claim 43 and the remaining dependent claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons above.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Consideration of the present application and a favorable response are respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, please contact the undersigned at 612-752-7367.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Customer Number 25763

Date: June 30, 2004

By: 
Min S. Xu (Reg. No. 39,536)
Intellectual Property Department
Suite 1500, 50 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1498